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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 5 and 9

THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 26 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights

We have seen a letter dated 15 April 1999 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Qatar transmitting a statement adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir on 9 April 1999, along with a memorandum submitted to this Group by the self-styled "true representatives of the Kashmiri people".

The OIC Contact Group has no locus standi to comment on the internal affairs of my country.

In a democracy, representatives of the people can only be elected; they can neither be self-appointed nor designated by foreign countries. The Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir has a popularly elected government, which alone enjoys the credentials to represent the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Government of India totally rejects the baseless allegations contained in the statement and the memorandum referred to above.

I would like to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda items 5 and 9.

(Signed) Savitri KUNADI

Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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